

Keep PK-2 Students in Class

Support HB 674 !

The Problem:

Many Texas school districts use harmful classroom removals, like out-of-school suspensions, to punish pre-K through 2nd grade students. Children as young as 3 years old are sent home for up to three days for offenses like "horseplay," "dress code violation," and "violation of classroom rules."

Often very young students are sent home for completely age-appropriate behaviors or for behaviors that should be addressed with services and positive supports. These unnecessary removals are taking away from valuable classroom learning time and are difficult for working Texas families. Research shows that young students who are suspended or expelled are 10 times more likely to drop out of school, fail academically, hold negative attitudes toward school, and face incarceration. Fortunately, there are research-based positive behavior models that are available to school districts so that educators can spend 100% of their time teaching, not using harmful and ineffective suspensions.

HB 674 will:

- Prohibit discretionary out-of-school suspensions for pre-k through 2nd graders. The bill does not impact removals for extremely disruptive behavior or removals for serious offenses that are required by law, like assault, drug possession, alcohol possession, or weapons possession.
- Permit, not require, each school district to identify student needs and create its own plan to train educators and support students with age-appropriate, research-based methods.

HB 674 will have no significant fiscal implication to the State.



Out-of-School Suspensions:

Over **26,183** in 2015-16 for Texas PK-2nd graders.



Black Students (2015-16):

12% of K-2 students, but **48% of out-of-school suspensions.**



Special Ed (2015-16):

9% of K-2 students, but **20% of out-of-school suspensions.**